

ever gets everything they want. And . . . it's critically important that we deal with these very, very important objectives even if we don't get on either side everything we want.

That was from the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the Democratic whip on the Senate side was part of the bipartisan group who suggested dropping the most controversial aspects and focusing on those things on which we agree.

So the answer really lies with Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader here in the Senate. Are they going to heed the bipartisan calls to deliver critical coronavirus funding, or are they going to continue to block relief for Americans?

Around our country, Americans are struggling under the worst wave of the virus to date. They need more help. Above all, they need the vaccinations that will help bring this pandemic to an end. We can pass additional coronavirus relief legislation this week. To quote the majority leader, let's "get it done."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BARR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday evening, President Trump shared the news that Attorney General Bill Barr will be leaving the administration in the coming days, and I want to take a moment to publicly thank the Attorney General for his service to our country.

Under two different Presidents and at two very different times in our country's history, Bill Barr gladly answered the call to service. His steadfast leadership has enabled the Department of Justice to continue its mission at a pivotal moment in our Nation's history.

I particularly appreciate Attorney General Barr's attempt to get to the bottom of some of the abuse of power by the FBI and the Department of Justice during the latter part of the Obama administration and early in the Trump administration.

During his time as Attorney General, Bill Barr has consistently fought to improve the safety of our communities across the country by attacking violent crime and aggressively countering transnational criminal organizations. He has been a champion of Project Safe Neighborhoods, which has strengthened community partnerships and helped to reduce crime rates across our country.

He has taken aim at the threats that exist beyond our borders, from drug cartels in Mexico to economic exploitation and outright theft by China.

Through it all, he has been as dogged in preventing injustice as in pursuing wrongdoing.

So I want to thank the Attorney General once again for not only answering the call to serve a second time but also for once again serving with distinction and integrity.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, on another matter, this week is set to be the final week for the 116th Congress, and the American people are counting on us to do our job. We have until this Friday to fund the government, and I hope we can pass legislation that provides more certainty than the stopgap bills that have become the norm in recent years.

It is simply impossible for government Agencies and Departments like the Defense Department to plan with short-term continuing resolutions. They need a longer term so they can plan and actually spend taxpayer dollars far more efficiently.

This is also a final opportunity to reach an agreement on another coronavirus bill, something that has been on our to-do list since this summer.

There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to send a stack of bipartisan bills to the President's desk for his signature. These may seem like small ball compared to some of the big issues like keeping the lights on for the government or another COVID-19 relief bill, but they are very important bipartisan pieces of legislation.

JENNA QUINN LAW

Mr. President, one of those bills is the Jenna Quinn Law, which I have spoken on here on the Senate floor many times. The goal of this legislation is straightforward—to stop child sexual abuse. It will help us do that by building on the success of what is now known as Jenna's Law in Texas and other States, which requires training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children, who will receive specialized training on how to detect and report and thus prevent child sexual abuse.

The signs of child sexual abuse are unique from other forms of child abuse and correctly identifying these signs is integral to bringing children out of sexually abusive situations. You might ask, If there is a Texas State law providing for this, why do we need a Federal law? Well, not every State has done what Texas has done, but also they need the funding to help pay for this specialized training. That is what the Jenna Quinn Law that is pending in Congress will do, and it will encourage other States without similar laws to implement innovative programs to address child sexual abuse. There should be few things more unifying than the war against child sexual abuse, which is why this bill passed the Senate unanimously earlier this year.

But days have turned into weeks and weeks have turned into months, and the House still hasn't passed the Jenna Quinn Law. It is not because House Members oppose the bill. If it came up on the floor today, nearly every Member of the House of Representatives would vote for it.

This bill hasn't been able to pass the House because one chairman—a Democratic chairman—won't even give the House a chance to vote on it. For months, Education and Labor Committee Chairman BOBBY SCOTT has refused to move the Jenna Quinn Law. Despite repeated requests from countless child advocacy groups and a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen, it continues in purgatory on the committee calendar.

Senators HASSAN, SMITH, and I sent a letter to Congressman SCOTT urging him to take action and to allow this lifesaving legislation to pass the House this year. He responded to our letter, saying he will continue to hold this legislation because he wants to add it to other more complicated legislative measures next year.

So when it comes to detecting and preventing child sexual abuse, Chairman SCOTT thinks we can wait until next year.

We can't wait until next year.

In short, he admitted that this legislation is so important and so valuable that he can't let it pass on its own. It has to drag other, more controversial, more partisan pieces of legislation along with it. And just when you think things can't get any worse, they do.

As I said, this legislation will provide funding to the States and will encourage States, like Congressman SCOTT's home State of Virginia, to implement it. You would think that Congressman SCOTT would care. If he didn't care for the bill that would benefit the rest of the country, you would think he would care about how it would benefit his constituents in his home district of Virginia. Virginia doesn't currently require this training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children, and this legislation would fix that.

Making this matter even more urgent is the pandemic. Experts believe that the unique conditions created by COVID-19 have caused instances of child sexual abuse to go up, while the number of reports has gone down. Families are experiencing a range of new stressors, including everything from job losses to financial instability, to health anxiety, all while isolating at home with their children. And the children who aren't going to school each day are out of sight from the teachers, busdrivers, and other adults they would otherwise come in contact with who are most likely to identify and report child sexual abuse. Adults who work with children are the No. 1 reporters of that abuse.

So there could not be a more urgent need for this legislation. This is not a partisan pet project. It is legislation that will save the lives of children across the country. Victims in my home State of Texas and Congressman SCOTT's home State of Virginia would experience the lifesaving benefits of the Jenna Quinn Law.

A couple weeks ago, the Dallas Morning News published an editorial titled,